

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:JDFORBES/HFO

APPROVED BY EA/MR. HABIB

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R 172322Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205011

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK AMBASSADOR CALLS ON HABIB

1. AMBASSADOR HAHM CALLED ON HABIB SEPT 17 TO PRESENT LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PARK INVITING PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT KOREA. HABIB INDICATED MATTER UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND PROMISED TO INFORM HAHM WHEN DECISION MADE.

2. HABIB COMMENTED OPTIMISTICALLY ON STATUS OF ROK-GOJ DISPUTE, BUT HAHM SEEMED UNINFORMED ON DETAILS. HABIB SAID WE UNDERSTOOD AMB USHIROKU HAD GIVEN KOREANS TEXT OF PAPER FOR USE DURING SHIINA VISIT EXPLAINING TANAKA-PARK LETTER AND THAT THERE REMAIN SOME SMALL DIFFERENCES OVER WORDING. NOTING KIM DONGJO REMARKS TO PRESS (TOKYO 11997), HE TOLD HAHM WE HOPED PUBLICIZING DETAILS OF ROK-GOJ NEGOTIATIONS WAS INTENDED TO PREPARE KOREAN PEOPLE FOR RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM RATHER THAN TO AIR FURTHER DIFFERENCES.

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3. DISCUSSION OF MAP AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD KOREA FOLLOWED AS RESULT OF HAHM'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN.

HABIB EXPLAINED SENATE MAY VOTE SEPT 18 ON SFRC BILL TO CUT MAP SHARPLY AND TERMINATE PROGRAM AFTER FY 77. HOUSE MARKUP OF BILL IS CONTINUING. HABIB STATED WE ARE OPPOSED

TO SENATE BILL AND ARE MAKING OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO CONGRESS; HE HOPES TO MET WITH VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS SHORTLY FOR THIS PURPOSE. PROSPECTS IN SENATE ARE NOT GOOD, AND OUR BEST HOPE IS HOUSE BILL, CONTIAING FEWER RESTRICTIONS AND HIGHER AMOUNTS, WHICH MIGHT FORCE CHANG:S IN SENATE BILL IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

4. HAHM OBJECTED TO SFRC SINGLING OUT KOREA FOR "CONDEMNATION," ESPECIALLY IN THAT THERE ARE RECIPIENTS OF US AID WHOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE MORE REPRESSIVE THAN KOREA BUT WHICH SFRC HAS NOT CRITICIZED. HABIB REPLIED THAT SFRC HAS EXERCISED THEIR PREROGATIVE AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS WERE NOT UNFORESEEN. HE REMINDED HAHM OF STRONG PRESSURES ON CONGRESS FROM INFLUENTIAL SECTORS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY TO REDUCE KOREAN MAP. BECAUSE OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KOREA AND US, CONGRESS SHOWS GREAT INTEREST IN OUR POLICY TOWARD KOREA. REPRESSIVE ACTIONS BY ROKG HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED FAVORABLY IN US, AND LIFTING OF EMERGENCY MEASURES 1 AND 4 HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THIS ATTITUDE SINCE THOSE SENTENCED ARE STILL IN JAIL. ROKG IMPRISONMENT OF BISHOP CHI HAS HAD POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IN US, SINCE MANY CONGRESSMEN HAVE LARGE CATHOLIC CONSTITUENCIES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO HAHM'S QUERY ABOUT UNGA PROSPECTS, HABIB SAID WORKING GROUP IS MAKING PROGRESS,AND WE ARE STILL HOPEFUL DEBATE CAN BE AVOIDED. THE KOREAN ITEM PROBABLY WILL NOT BE RAISED UNTIL NOVEMBER. HABIB REGRETTEED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KIM HAD DELAYED HIS TRIP TO US AND HOPED HE WILL SOON ARRIVE IN NEW YORK TO WORK ON KOREAN QUESTION.

6. HAHM CALLED LATER IN DAY TO INFORM HABIB THAT KIM SCHEDULED ARRIVE WASHINGTON SEPT 20 AND DESIRED APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY. WE HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT. KISSINGER
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